

# listen In

January 12, Friday  
David Rosenboom

*MUSIC FROM...ON BEING INVISIBLE II (HYPATIA SPEAKS TO JEFFERSON IN A DREAM) 1994-95*  
a Self-Organizing Multimedia Performance Work Utilizing Event Related Potentials from performers' brains.

On Being Invisible, begun in 1976, is a self-organizing, dynamical system, rather than a fixed musical composition. The title refers to the role of an individual within an evolving, dynamical environment, who makes decisions concerning when and how to be a conscious initiator of action and when simply to allow her or his internal dynamics to co-evolve with the system as a whole. Consequently the work is always ongoing.

One of the objectives of the piece is to create an attention-dependent sonic environment in which a sound language orders itself spontaneously, according to the manner in which its components are being perceived. To accomplish this, streams of sound events are generated by computers with pre-determined compositional methods. Using a partial model of musical perception, the software analyzes them and attempts to predict which ones might be perceived by active listeners as having particular importance in the emerging musical structure. Signals from the brains of on-stage performers, known as event-related potentials are tested to determine if these predictions can be confirmed and the events are, in fact, being heard as musical landmarks.

David Rosenboom is best known as a pioneer in American experimental music. Composer, performer, conductor, interdisciplinary artist, author, and educator, he has explored ideas in his work about the spontaneous evolution of forms languages for improvisation, new techniques, and rotation for ensembles, cross-cultural collaborations, performance art, computer music systems, interactive multimedia, compositional algorithms, and the structure of the brain and nervous system since the 1960's. His work is widely distributed and presented.

Rosenboom's most recent CD recording, *David Rosenboom/Anthony Braxton, Two Lines*, has been released by Lovely Music. It contains duets and uses interactive computer processes similar to those heard in *On Being Invisible*.